

Cryptantha insolita (J. F. Macbride [1916]) Payson**UNUSUAL CATSEYE****FAMILY:** *Boraginaceae*, the forget-me-not family.**SYNONYMS:** *Cryptantha virginensis* (?)**STATUS:****Heritage Program SENSITIVE LIST, ranks: GHQ SH****USFWS/ESA:** species of concern. **STATE OF NEVADA:** FULLY PROTECTED. **BLM:** Special Status Species.**USFS:** none. **NNNPS:** POSSIBLY EXTIRPATED.**POPULATION CENSUS:** 1 extant and 1 extirpated occurrences mapped; total estimated individuals unknown, total estimated area unknown. **TREND:** DECLINING.**IMPACTS AND MAJOR THREATS:** Area in which this species occurs is rapidly being developed.**INVENTORY EFFORT:** Never systematically surveyed, may now be extirpated. Most recent entered survey 1942, average year of last survey 1923. **Years since last entered survey** (percent of mapped records at various survey ages): **51+ yrs or unknown:** 100%.**LAND MANAGEMENT** in decreasing predominance: U. S. Bureau of Land Management (?), private lands (?).**RANGE:** Clark County, Nevada. Known only from the Las Vegas Valley and adjacent lower slopes of the Spring Mountains. **Nevada endemic.** **Type specimen** collected in Clark County.**ELEVATIONS RECORDED:** 1900-2000 feet (579-610 meters).**HABITAT:** Light-colored, alkaline clay flats and low hills in the creosote bush zone.**PHENOLOGY:** flowering late-spring. Range of most frequent **survey months:** May.**LIFE-FORM AND HABIT:** perennial herb.**DESCRIPTION:** A perennial herb with 1-2 stems, 3-4 dm tall. Leaves are spatula-shaped and have appressed, spreading bristles. White flowers are probably in bloom April-June. **Distinguishing features:** Requires mature fruit for identification. Doubtfully distinct from *Cryptantha virginensis*.**PHOTOGRAPHS:** none known.**ILLUSTRATIONS:** Mozingo and Williams (1980).**OTHER GENERAL REFERENCES** (listed separately): Barneby (1964).**SPECIFIC REFERENCES:**Macbride, J. F. 1916. Revision of the genus *Oreocarya*. Contributions from the Gray Herbarium 48: 20-38.Payson, E. B. 1927. A monograph of the section *Oreocarya* of *Cryptantha*. Annals of the Missouri Botanical Gardens 14: 211-358.**OF FURTHER INTEREST:** Synonymized under *Cryptantha virginensis* by Intermountain Flora (Cronquist et al. 1984). The taxon may since have been extirpated, rendering further taxonomic judgment difficult.